

1936 Hindenburg to North America

The Hindenburg provided the first scheduled airmail and air passenger service across the North Atlantic. Procedures were the same as the South America route.

1936 Hindenburg North Atlantic Schedule - Ten flights May through October - Flight schedule was published in advance to accommodate commercial mailers.

Airmail Route - The Hindenburg flew directly from Frankfurt am Main to Lakehurst, New Jersey - The first flight left from Friedrichshafen, because the new Frankfurt terminal was not yet complete.

Mail Exchanges - Mail was exchanged with scheduled airline flights in Germany and the United States - Intermediate exchange points were not used.

Mail Handling Procedures - The procedures for the processing of mail at Frankfurt am Main and the handling of mail posted on board were the same as for the South America service.

Cachets - German circular cachets inscribed "Europe-North America" were used on flights 1 to 5.

a Berlin
c Frankfurt am Main

d Frankfurt am Main
e Frankfurt am Main or Friedrichshafen

German pictorial cachets modeled after the Olympic Flight cachet were used on flights 6 to 10.

Quantities of Mail - About 20,000 letters per crossing.

FIRST 1936 OUTBOUND FLIGHT

Friedr. Lakehurst
Zeppelin 6 May 9 May



Cachet with Code Letter "a" for Berlin - From a resident of Berlin to a correspondent in New York - Postage RM .50 zeppelin, .25 surface.

Only a few pieces with cachet "a" are known.

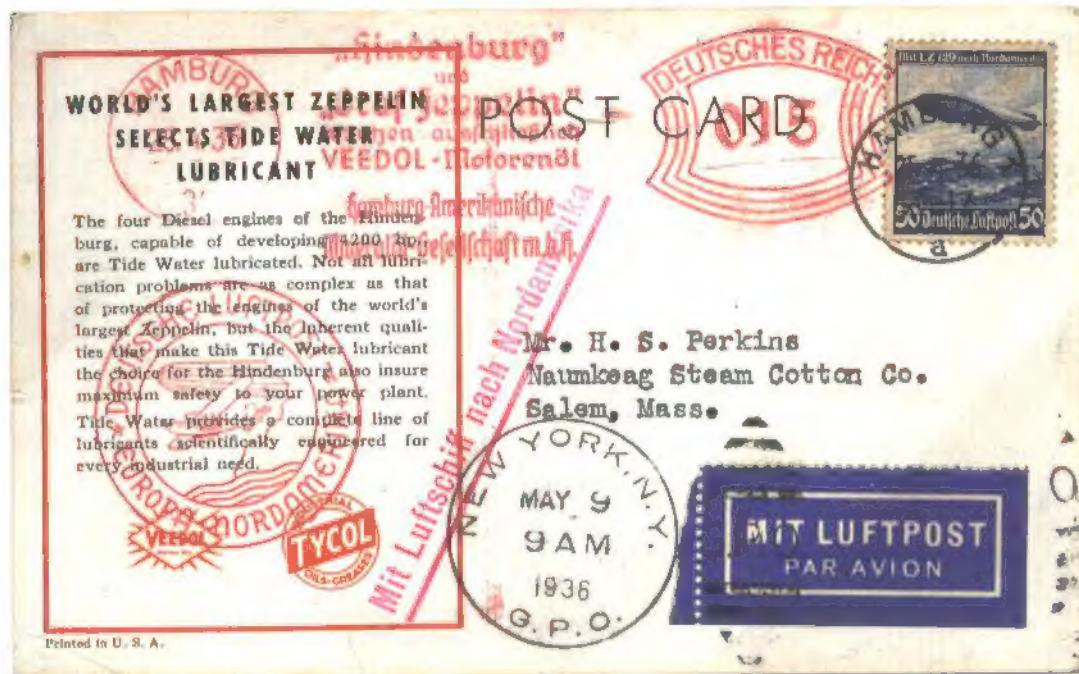
1936 Hindenburg to
North America

FIRST 1936 OUTBOUND FLIGHT

Friedr. Lakehurst
Zeppelin 6 May 9 May



Incorrect Cachet Corrected - Cachet for South America flight crossed out and replaced by similar North America cachet - Postage .50 zeppelin, .25 surface.



VEEDOL Advertising Card - The well publicized flight was used to promote the products of the Tide Water Oil Company - Postage .50 zeppelin, .15 surface card.



Eight Ounce Commercial Letter to Denmark - Sent between offices of an engineering firm - Postage
\$6.88 = 16 x 43¢ per half ounce, including airmail in Europe.

AFTER FIVE DAYS RETURN
F. L. SMIDTH & CO.,
ENGINEERS
225 BROADWAY. NEW YORK, N. Y.
RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

VIA AIR MAIL

Par Avion
By Air Mail
FORM 2070

Airship
Via Hindenberg

MORGAN ANNEX
MAY 17 4 PM
1936



Messrs. F. L. SMIDTH & CO. A/S.,
Vestergade 33,
Copenhagen, K.
DENMARK



1936 Hindenburg to
North America

FIRST 1936 RETURN FLIGHT

Lakehurst Frankfurt
Zeppelin 11 May 14 May



Personal Letter from Brooklyn to Germany - Postage 40¢ zeppelin,
3¢ airmail in Europe.



Passenger Mail without Cachet - "Hello" messages written on board the return flight - Postage RM .50 airmail, .15 surface card.

Cachets were not used on board the first five 1936 North America flights.



To Florence, Italy - Annotations in Arabic script - Postage 40¢ zeppelin, 3¢ airmail in Europe.

SECOND 1936 OUTBOUND FLIGHT

Frankfurt Lakehurst

Zeppelin 17 May 20 May



Danzig - Business Letter to Meat Packing Company in Chicago - Postage 2 x 1.50
gulden per 5 grams zeppelin airmail, .40 surface.



Postage Due - Short paid by RM .35 and charged double the deficiency "T70" = 70 gold centimes = 14¢ due - Postage .65 = .50 zeppelin, .15 surface card.



Purple Boxed Marking "Arrived after Airship Departure. To Avoid Delay, Sent by Ordinary Means" - Weight 17 grams - Postage 2.00 zeppelin (4 x .50 per 5 grams), .25 surface.

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SECOND 1936 OUTBOUND FLIGHT

Frankfurt Lakehurst
Zeppelin 17 May 20 May



Photocopy of reverse

To Honduras - Postage RM .50 zeppelin, .30 airmail New York to Honduras, .25 surface.

SECOND 1936 RETURN FLIGHT

Lakehurst Frankfurt
Zeppelin 20 May 23 May



Returned for Postage - Short paid by 34¢ when mailed - Postage 80¢ = 2 x 40¢ per half ounce zeppelin.



Middle East Destination - To Palestine - Airmail postage to Palestine was paid, but air service was denied in Germany - Blue crayon crosses out "Mit Luftpost" - 40¢ zeppelin, 6¢ air London to Palestine.



 **Canada - "Too Late" for Transport by Zeppelin** - Posted in Montreal at noon on the day of the zeppelin departure - Reached New York too late for the Hindenburg flight - Sent to Europe by sea. Postage 60¢ per half ounce by zeppelin.

1936 Hindenburg to North America

THIRD 1936 OUTBOUND FLIGHT

Frankfurt Lakehurst
Zeppelin 19 Jun 22 Jun



Norway - Sardine Factory Corner Card - Postage 2.30 zeppelin (2 x 1.15 per 5 grams), .50 air in U.S. (2 x .25 per 5 grams), .30 surface.



Two Ocean Cover to Hawaii - Flown across the Atlantic by zeppelin and across the Pacific by Pan American Clipper - Postage for 10 grams RM 2.75 = 2 x .50 zeppelin, 2 x .75 airmail to Hawaii, .25 surface.

Photocopy of reverse

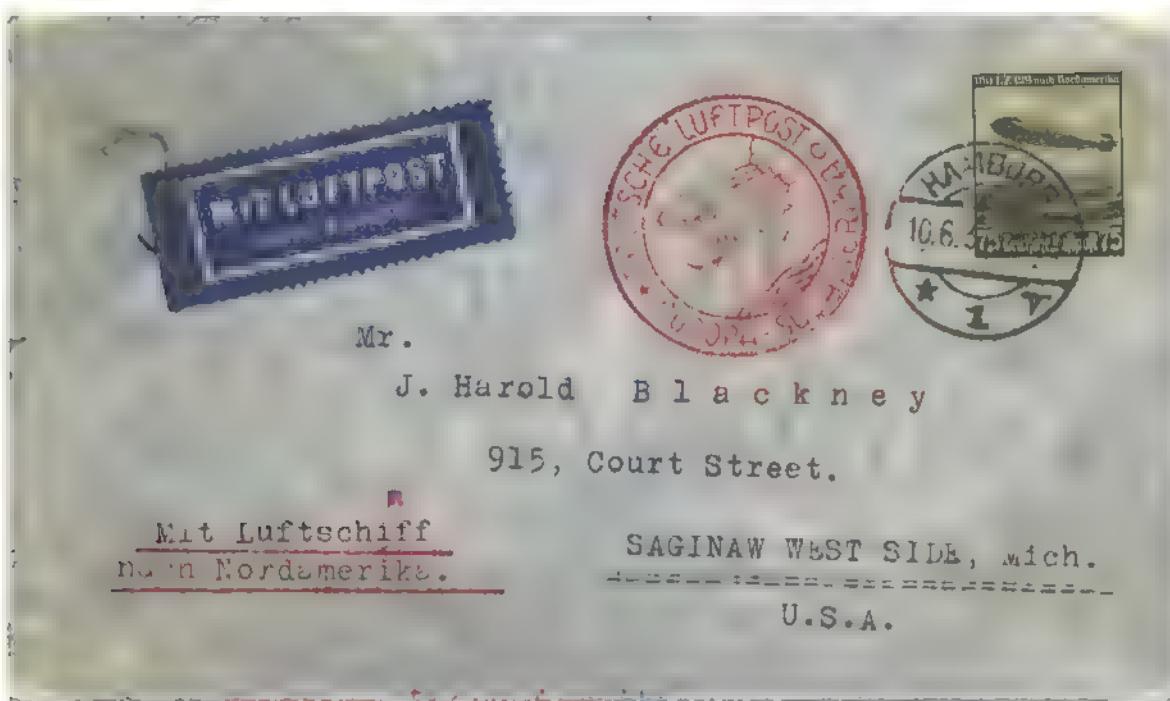


Backstamps show route: New York, Frankfurt am Main, Tamanarive in Madagascar, GPO Mauritius.



To Mauritius in Indian Ocean - Flown by Hindenburg across the Atlantic and by airmail from Europe to South Africa - Postage 85¢ = 40¢ zeppelin to Europe, 3¢ airmail within Europe, 27¢ Imperial Airways to Durban, 15¢ registration.

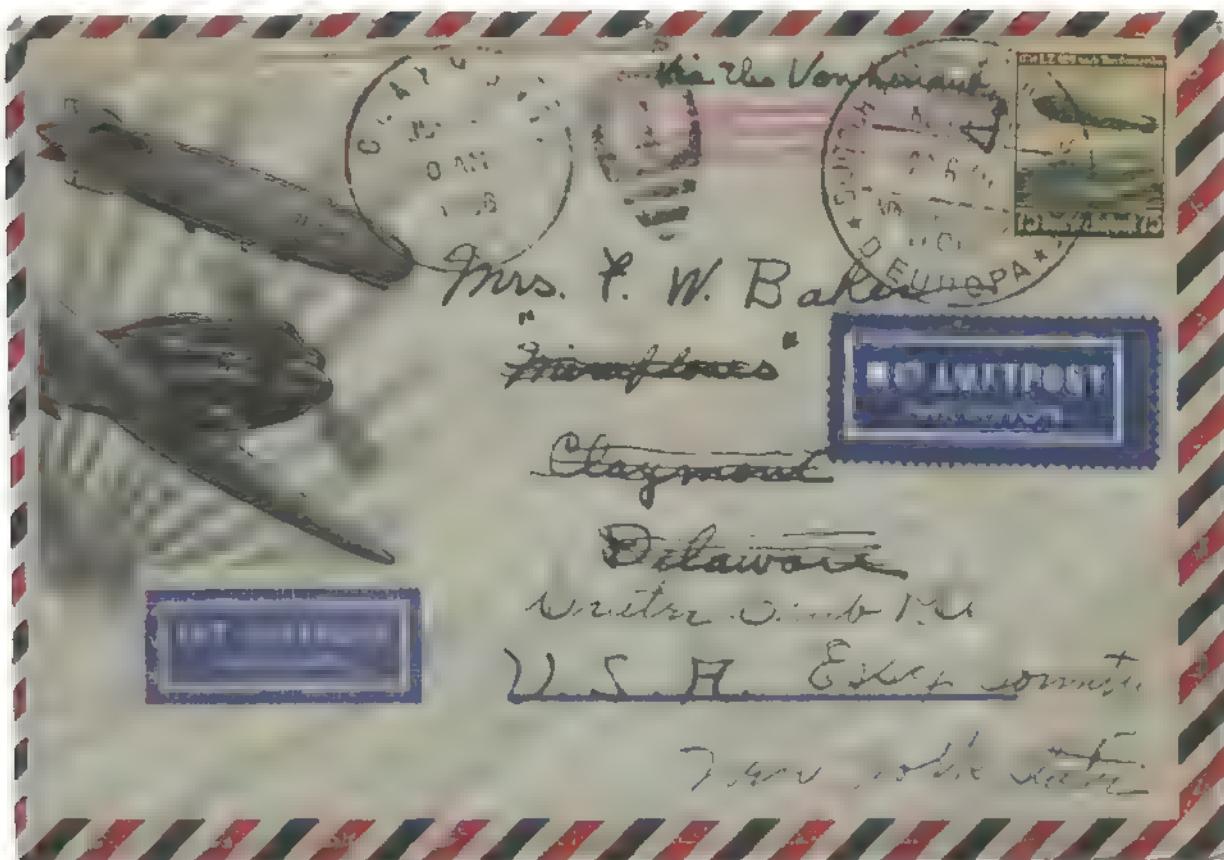
Although the postage paid is for British airmail service in Africa, the Madagascar backstamps indicate possible carriage by French air service instead.



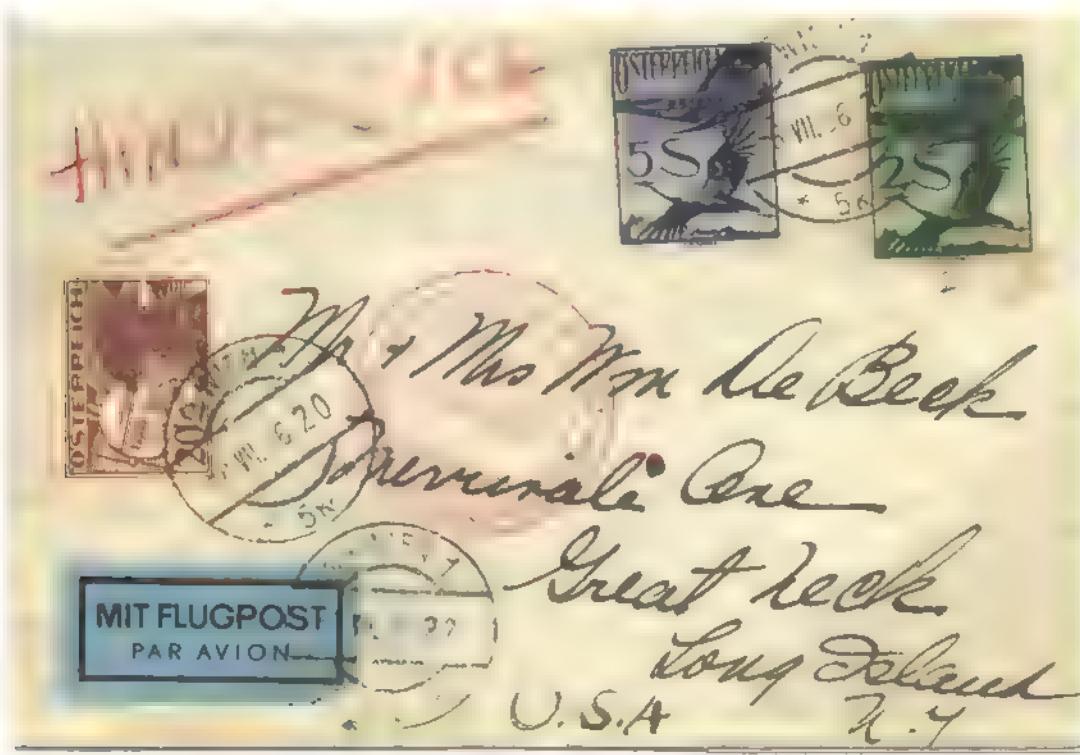
Incorrect Cachet - Reads "SÜDAMERIKA", the cachet for a flight to South America.



Incorrect Cachet Corrected - South America flight cachet crossed out and the correct North America cachet added instead.



German-American Sea Post - Posted on the German liner Europa and directed "Via the Hindenburg" to the U.S. - July 3 arrival date in forwarding postmark confirms transport by the zeppelin - Postage RM .50 zeppelin, .25 surface.



Austria - Red "Hindenburg" direction marking added by postal clerk - Postage 7.20 schilling = 6.60 zeppelin (4 x 1.65 per 5 grams), .60 surface.

German -
American sea
post cancel



To Mexico - Stamp Added for Postage beyond U.S. - Meter postage RM .85 = .50 zeppelin to U.S., .10 air in U.S., .25 surface - Stamp postage .20 airmail U.S. to Mexico.



Cancelled Later - "Nachträglich entwertet" in purple post marks shows that two stamps which were not cancelled at the sending post office were cancelled later.

Postage RM 1.25 = 2 x .50 zeppelin, .25 surface - By surface New York to Honolulu.

by dirigible HINDENBURG

Pouva Anna Tschepanoff
Honkaniemi Py. (Wifan:)

AIR MAIL
PAR AVION.

Suomi - Finland

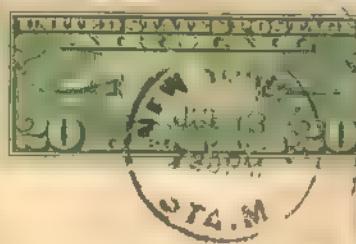
Europe-



To Finland - New York to Helsinki - Postage 40¢ zeppelin, 3¢ airmail in Europe.

by Airship
"Hindenburg"

JUL 13
730PM
STA. M
1936



Mr Hugo Steiner

U.S. AIR MAIL

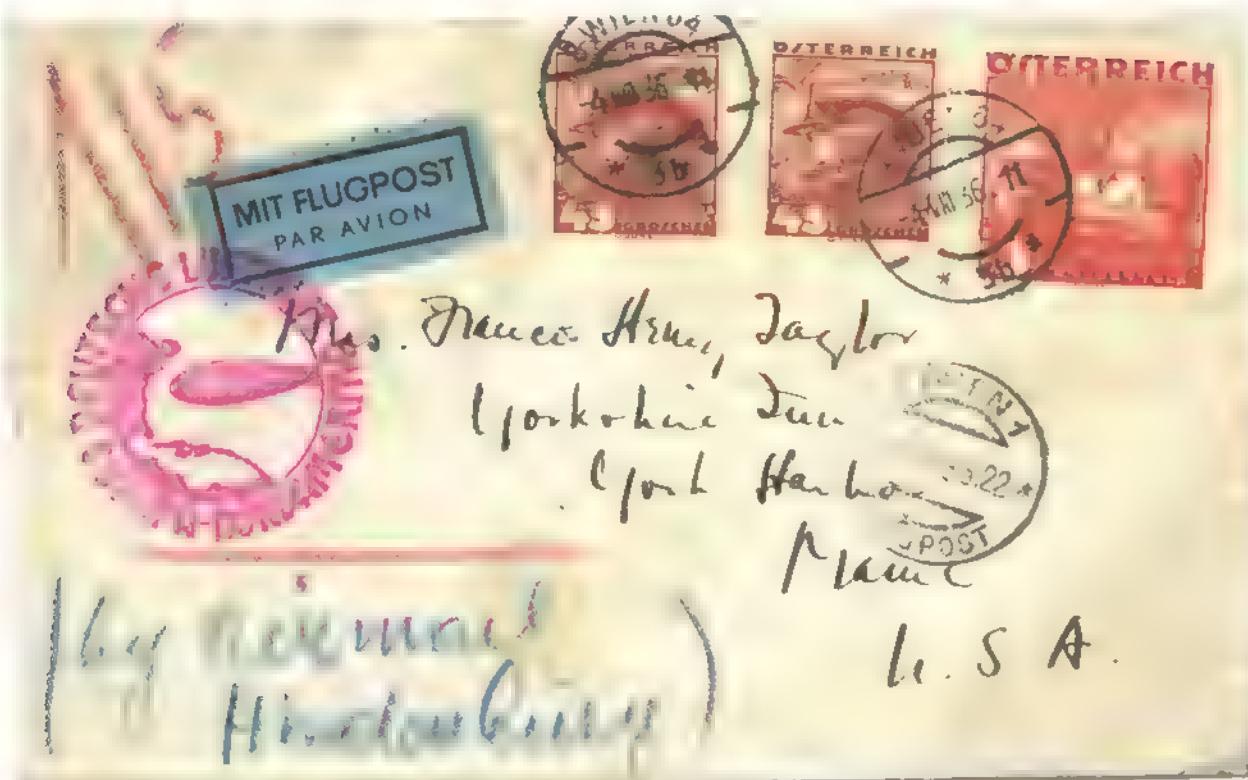
Munich

Pension Weinried
Mühlwegstrasse 32

Vertraulich
U.S. AIR MAIL



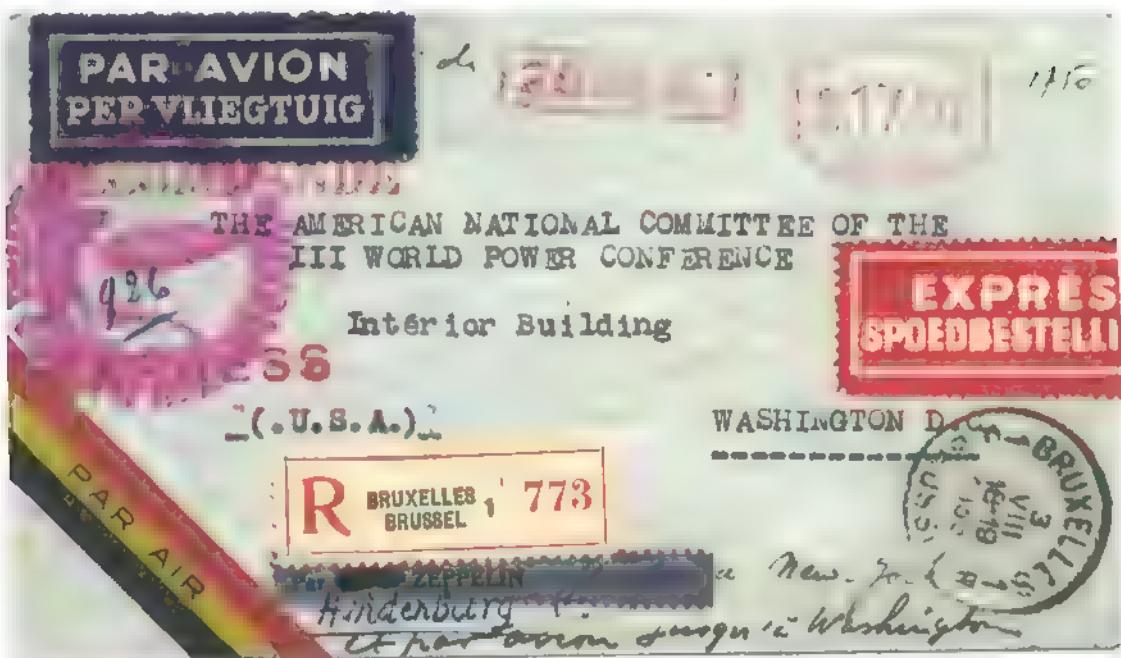
German Currency Control Tape - Letter opened at Munich to ensure that cash was not being smuggled into the country - Postage 40¢ zeppelin.



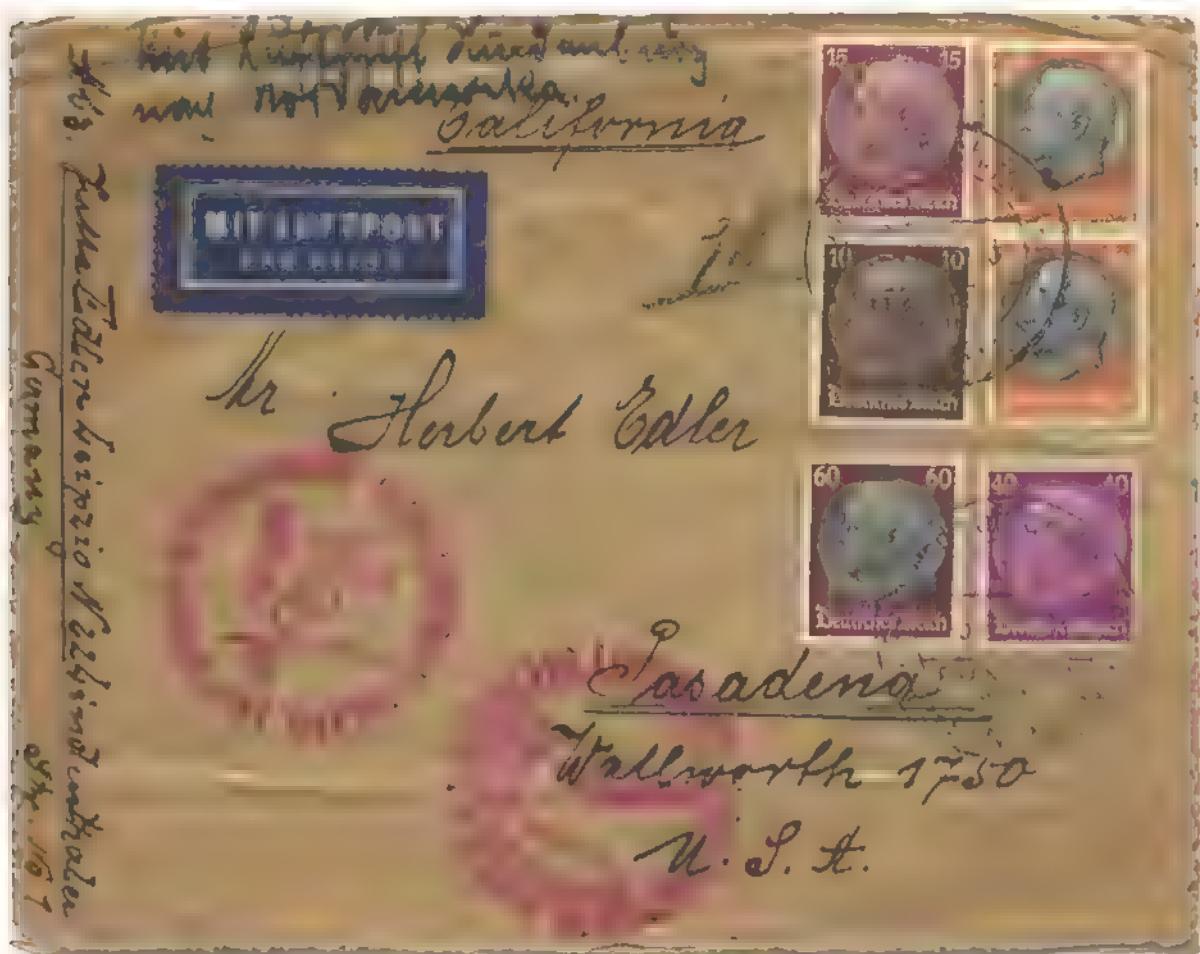
Austria - Pneumatic Mail within Vienna - Red crayon "1/5" added by postal clerk for pneumatic mail to the Vienna central post - Connection with the airship was made the next day - Postage 3.30 schilling zeppelin (2 x 1.65 per 5 grams), .60 surface.



News Dispatch from Olympic Games - Postmarked Berlin on 1 August, the day the games opened - Weight 19 grams - Postage RM 2.00 zeppelin (4 x .50 per 5 grams), .25 surface.



Belgium - Meter Franking on Express Letter - Delivered on Sunday, 9 August - Total postage 17.50 francs = 8.50 zeppelin, 2.00 airmail in U.S., 3.50 special delivery in U.S., 1.75 surface, 1.75 registration.



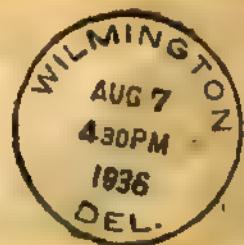
Flown on Both the Olympic Games Flight and the North America Flight - Routed by the postal clerk "by airship Hindenburg to North America", but put on the Olympic Flight by mistake - Charged RM 2.25 for the North America Flight (4 x .50 per 5 grams zeppelin, 25 surface) plus the extra RM 1.00 for the Olympic Flight.

Rec. 248 50M 12:35

HERCULES POWDER COMPANY
INCORPORATED900 Market Street
Wilmington, Delaware

N. V. Hercules Powder Co.
P. O. Box 89
The Hague
Holland

Via Airship Hindenburg
from Lakehurst 8-9-36



U.S. Meter Franking - Sent between offices of the Hercules Power Company - Postage 80¢ (2 x 40¢ per ½ ounce zeppelin)

U.S. Postal Bulletin does not specify meter franking for zeppelin mail, so U.S. meter frankings are extremely scarce.

Via AIRSHIP HINDENBURG
sailing 8/9/36

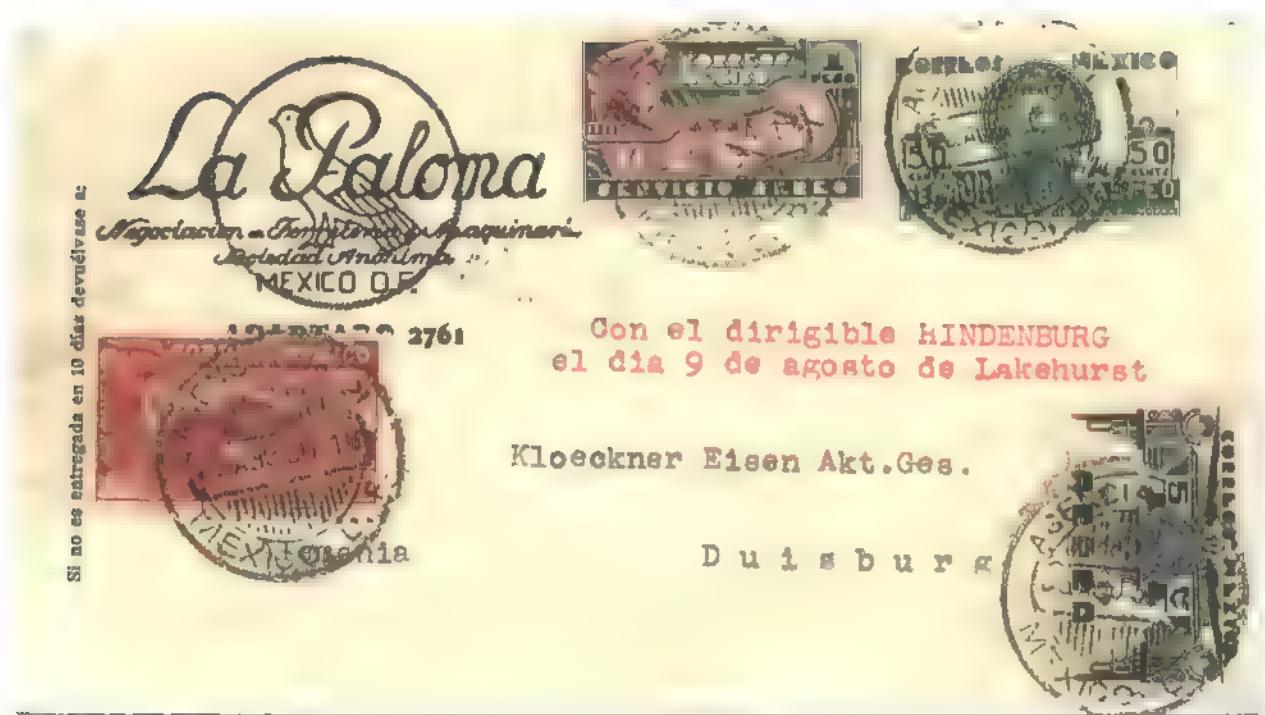
26



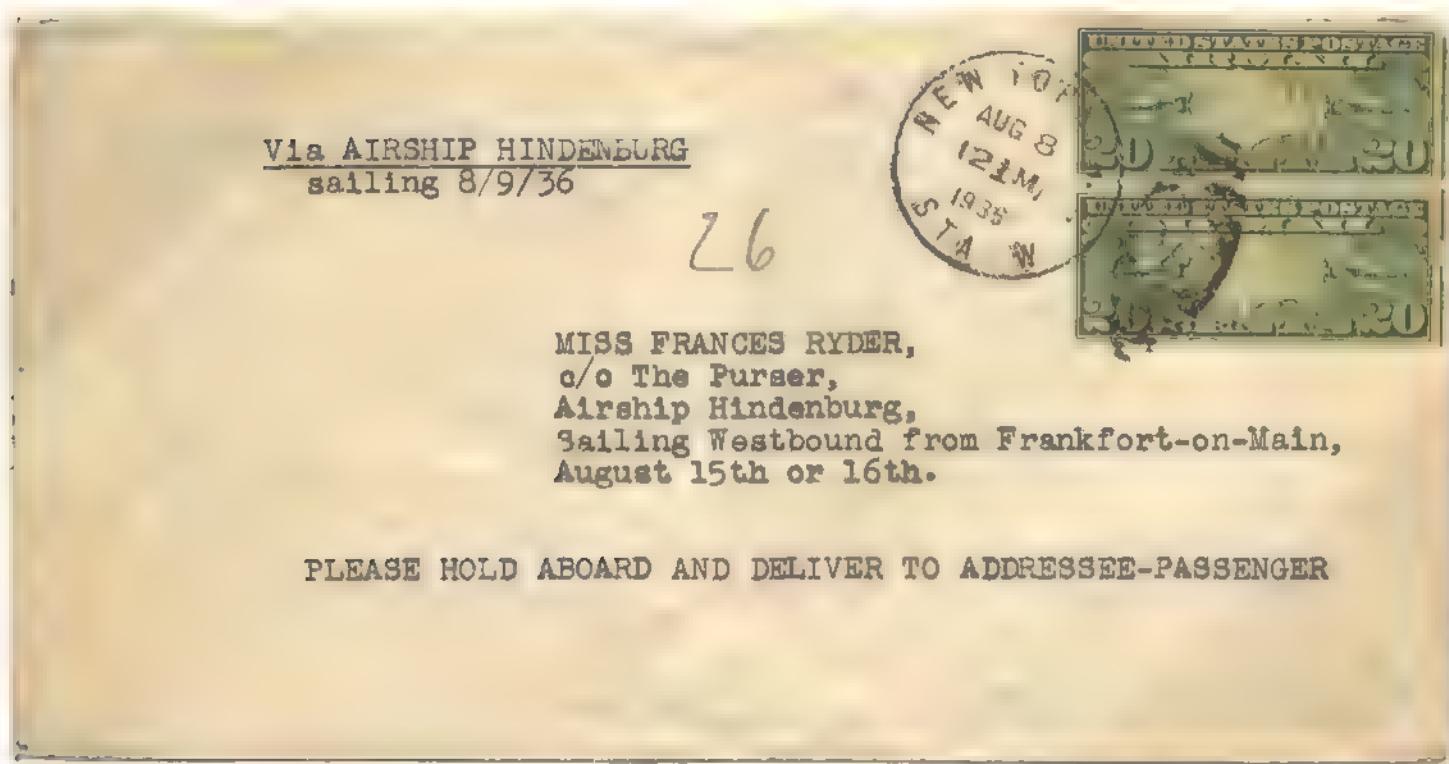
MISS FRANCES RYDER,
c/o The Purser,
Airship Hindenburg,
Sailing Westbound from Frankfurt-on-Main,
August 15th or 16th.

PLEASE HOLD ABOARD AND DELIVER TO ADDRESSEE-PASSENGER

Mail Sent to a Passenger aboard the Next Hindenburg Flight from Germany - Sent by the Hindenburg on the sixth return flight to reach a passenger on the seventh outbound flight - "26" is probably Miss Ryder's cabin number.

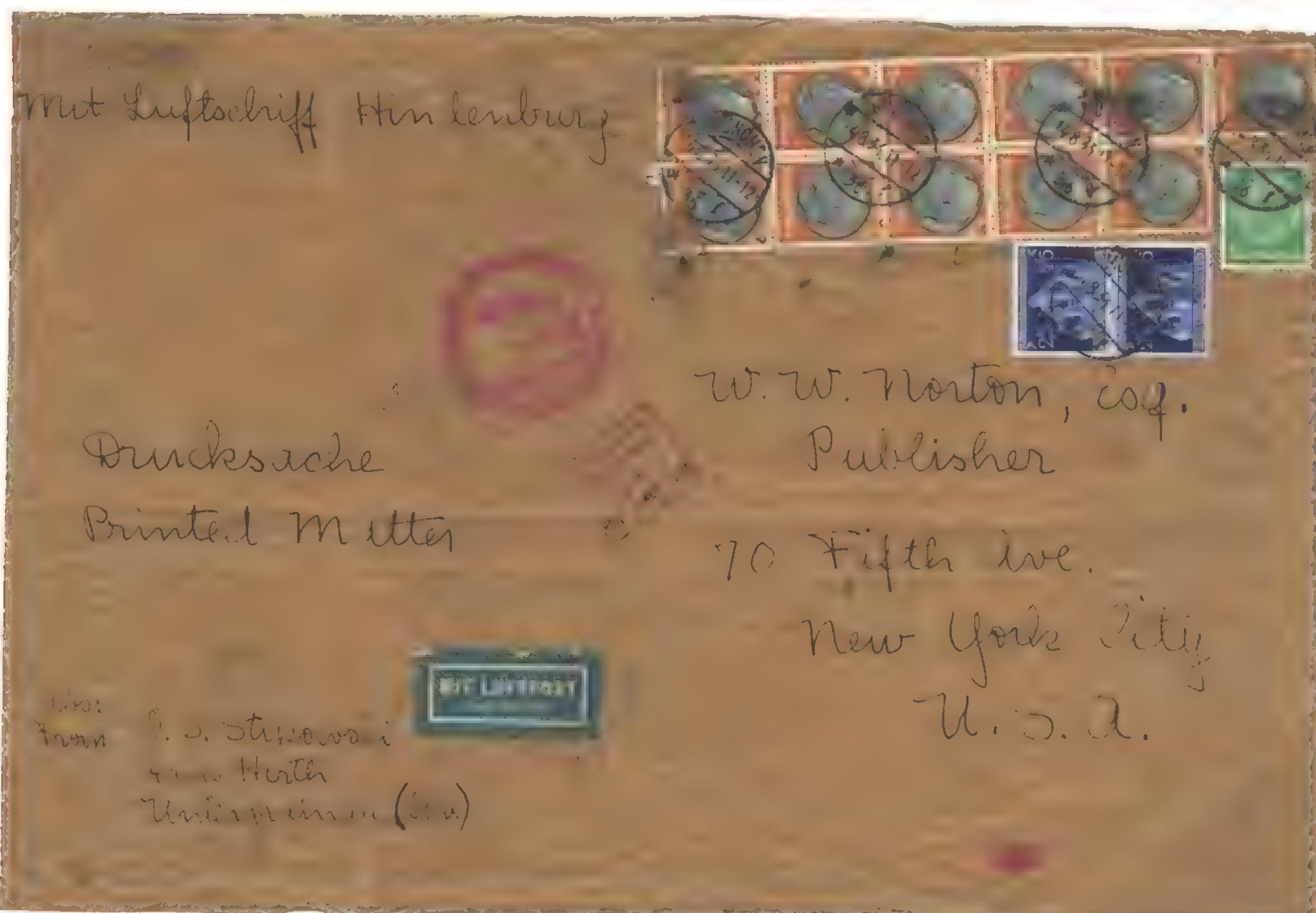


Mexico - Corner Card of "The Dove," a Hardware dealer in Mexico City.



Mail Sent to a Passenger aboard the Next Hindenburg Flight from Germany - Sent by the Hindenburg on the sixth return flight to reach a passenger on the seventh outbound flight - "26" is probably Miss Ryder's cabin number.

Parcel Wrapper for Printed Matter Sent to New York Publishing Firm - Passed free by customs - Weight 535 grams -
Reduced rates for printed matter - RM 11.55 = 11 00 zeppelin (22 x 50 per 25 grams), 55 surface (11 x 05 per 50 grams)





Mail from Olympic Stadium - Visitor card describing events on tenth day of games - Postage RM .50 zeppelin, .25 surface.



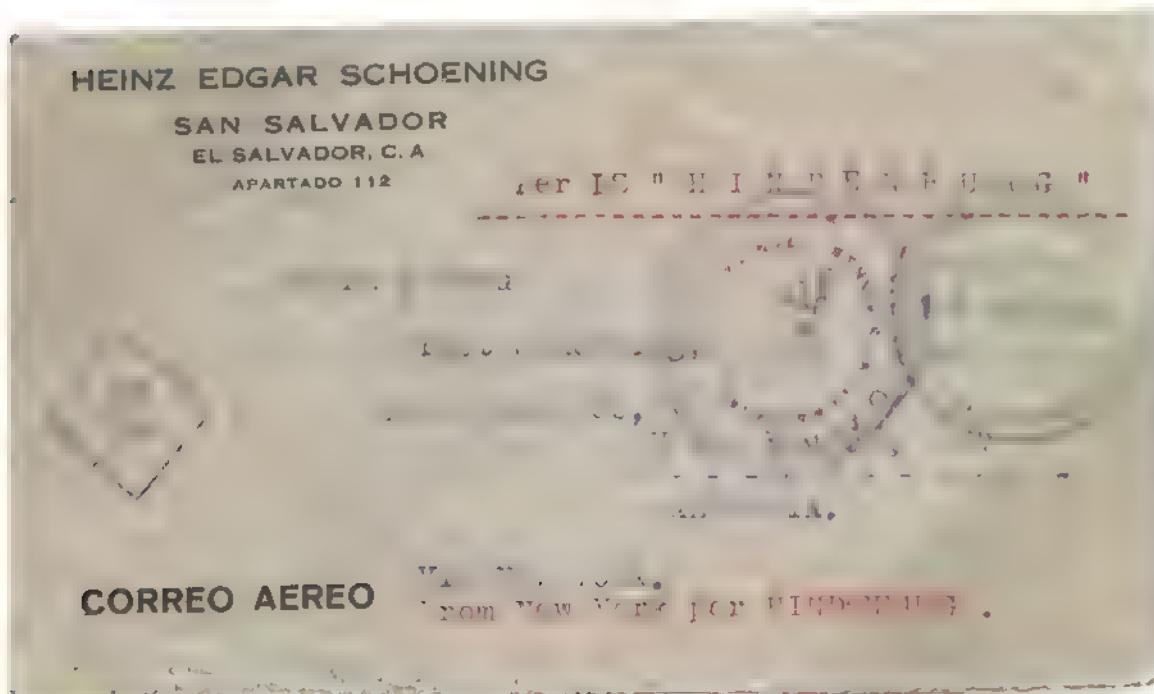
Short-Paid Amount Added by Olympic Stadium Post Office - Weight 22 grams.

Postage RM 3.40 = 2.50 zeppelin (5 x .50 per 5 grams), .50 air in U.S (5 x .10 per 5 grams), 40 2nd weight surface - RM 1.60 paid (at right) - RM 1.80 short, added (at left), cancelled 3 hours later - RM 1.80 billed to sender's home address (on back of envelope)

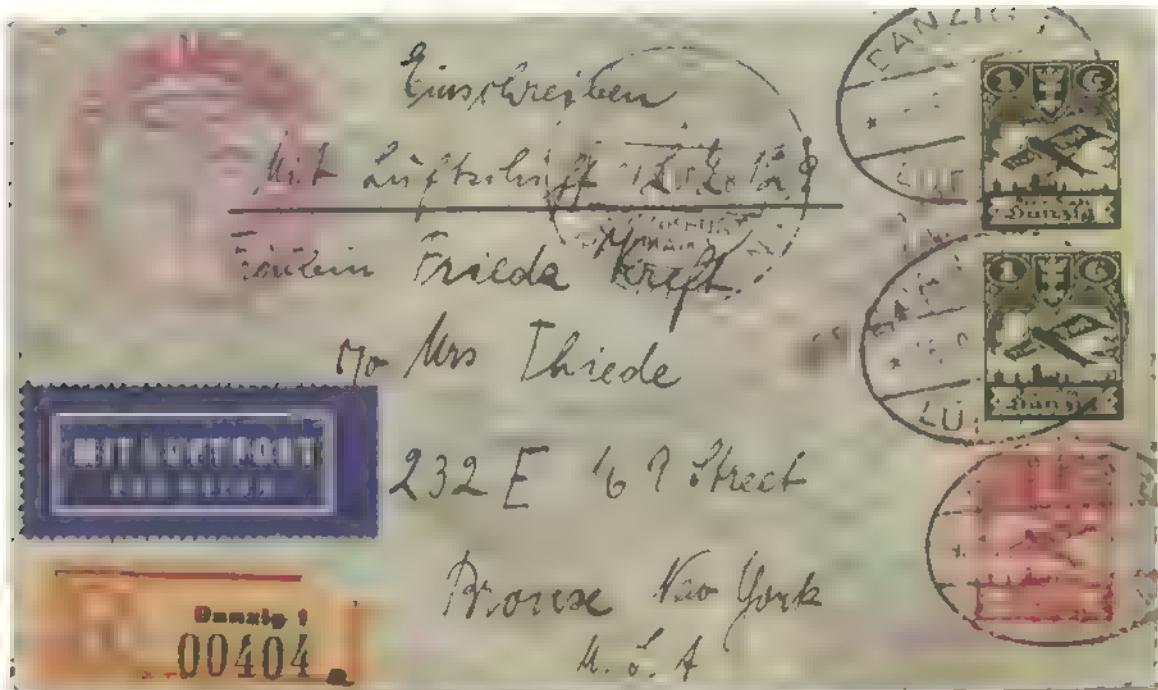


Canal Zone Zeppelin Markings - Zeppelin directional markings in the typical Canal Zone Postal Service style on personal correspondence to France - Postage 65¢ = 20¢ airmail Canal Zone to U.S., 40¢ zeppelin U.S. to Europe, 5¢ UPU surface.

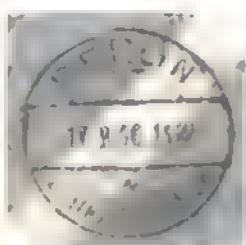
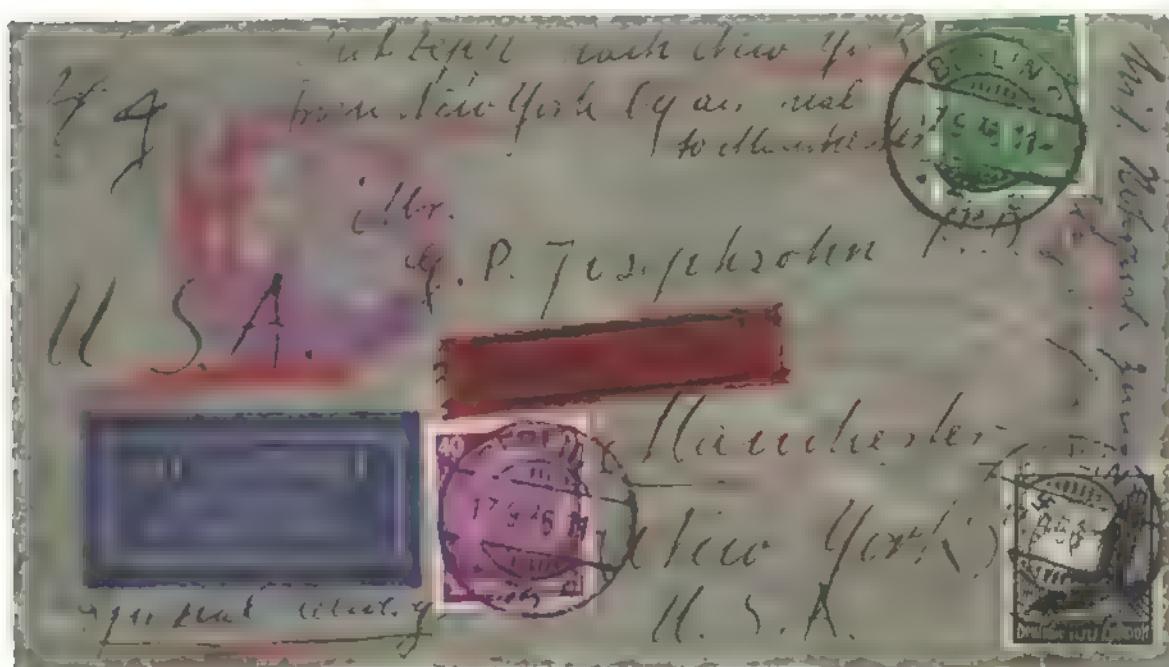
One of two covers reported with this Canal Zone Postal Service zeppelin directional marking.



El Salvador - From a German businessman to relatives in Germany - Postage 1 45 pesos on back.



Danzig - Personal Letter to Relative in New York - Postage 2.20 gulden = 1.50 zeppelin, .40 surface, .30 registration.

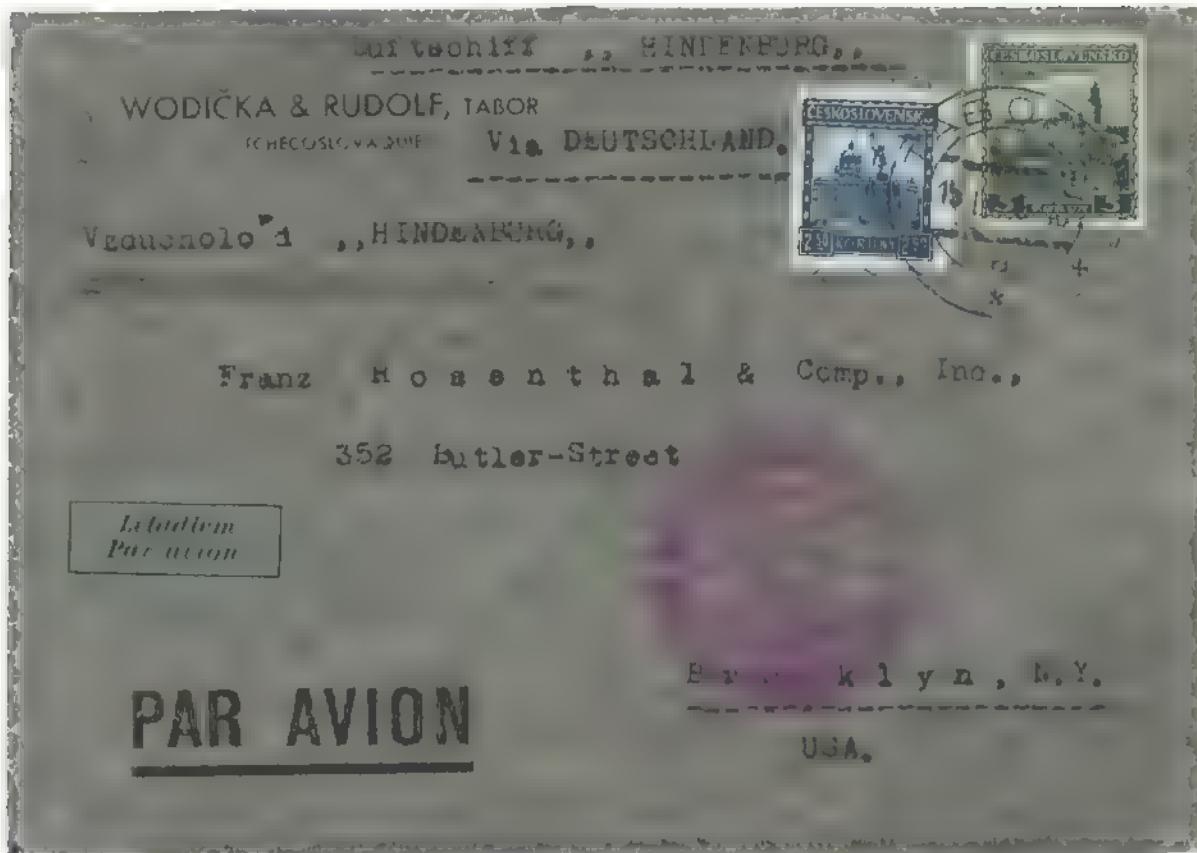


Berlin central airport receiving mark with minutes in time

Express Letter Sent by Pneumatic Mail within Berlin - Directed "Mit Rohrpost zum Flughafen (By pneumatic mail to airport)" to catch the Hindenburg flight later that day - Red crayon "Z" for the pneumatic station at the Berlin Zentralflughafen (Central Airport) post office

By feeder flight from Berlin to the zeppelin at Frankfurt - by Hindenburg to Lakehurst - by airmail and special delivery in U.S.

Postage RM 1.45 = 10 pneumatic mail, .50 zeppelin, 10 airmail in U.S., 50 special delivery in U.S., .25 surface.



Czechoslovakia - Corner card of a business firm in Tabor - Weight 20 grams - Postage 28.00 korany zeppelin (4 x 7.00 per five grams), 2.50 surface (23.00 stamps on back).



SCADTA Arrival postmark

To the Interior of Columbia - Flown by U.S. airlines from New York to Columbia and by SCADTA within Columbia to Bogota - Postage RM 50 zeppelin, 75 airmail New York to interior of Columbia, .25 surface.

1936 Hindenburg to North America

EIGHTH 1936 OUTBOUND FLIGHT

Frankfurt Lakehurst
Zeppelin 17 Sep 20 Sep



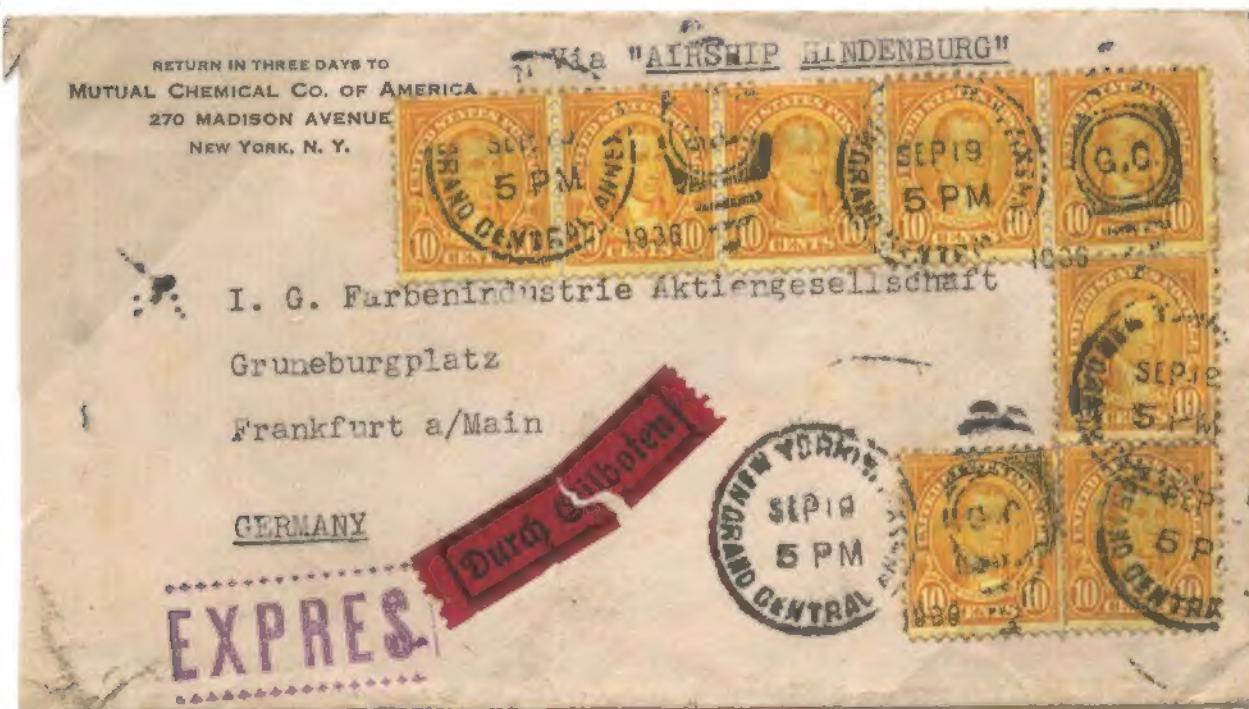
Sweden - To a Wholesale Fruit Dealer in Seattle - Postage 1.50 zeppelin, .30 surface



Denmark - Personal Letter to California - "By airmail via New York" for air delivery across U.S. - Postage 1.25 zeppelin, .25 air in U.S., .30 surface.

Pneumatic mail timestamp on back.

SEP 21 3-35 N. 1936



Express Mail Delivered by Pneumatic Mail within Frankfurt am Main - "3-35 N" in pneumatic mail timestamp shows arrival at delivery post office at 3:35 p.m. - This system was only for internal use by the post and telegraph office - Postage 40¢ zeppelin, 20¢ express.

The New York Foreign Office rated the letter up to express mail, because it was 40¢ overpaid.



Missionary Mail to French West Africa - By Hindenburg to Frankfurt and by Air France via Marseille to Niger - Postage 40¢ zeppelin, 19¢ for French air service from Marseille to Niamey.



Mourning Letter to California - Directed "By airmail from New York" - Postage RM 1.50 zeppelin (3 x .50 per 5 grams), .30 airmail in US (3 x .10 per 5 grams), .25 surface.

NINTH 1936 RETURN FLIGHT

Lakehurst Frankfurt
Zeppelin 30 Sep 3 Oct

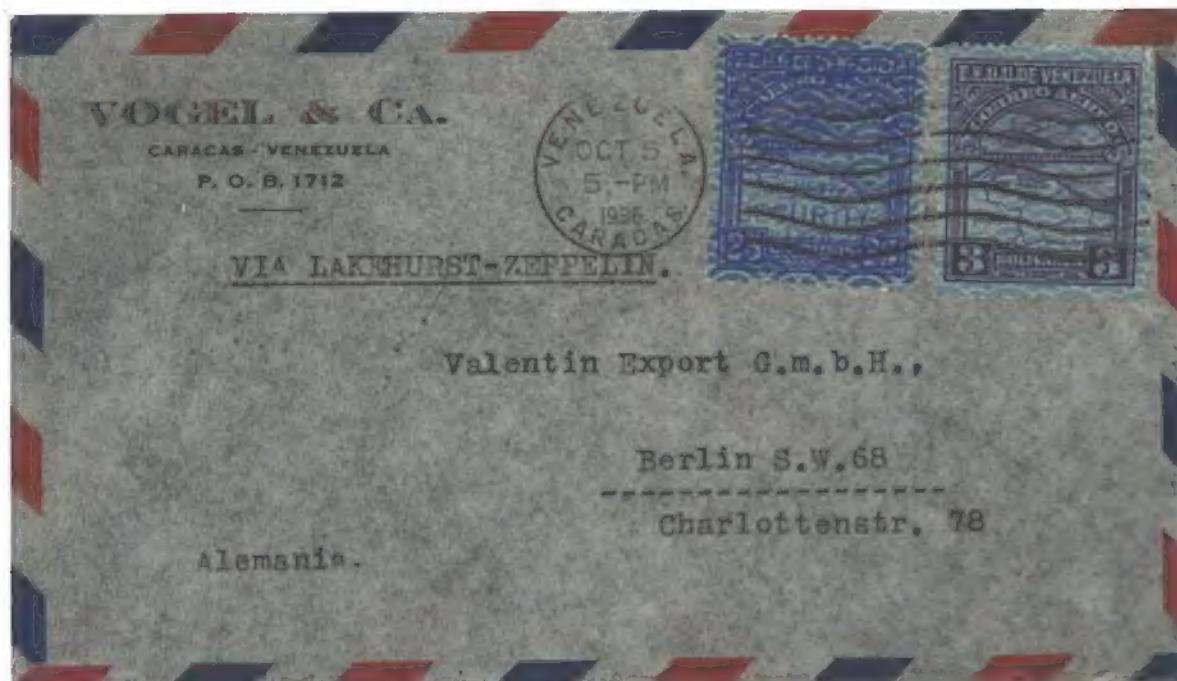
Passenger Mail to Japan - By surface from Frankfurt am Main via Siberia to Osaka - Postage RM .50 zeppelin, .15 surface card.



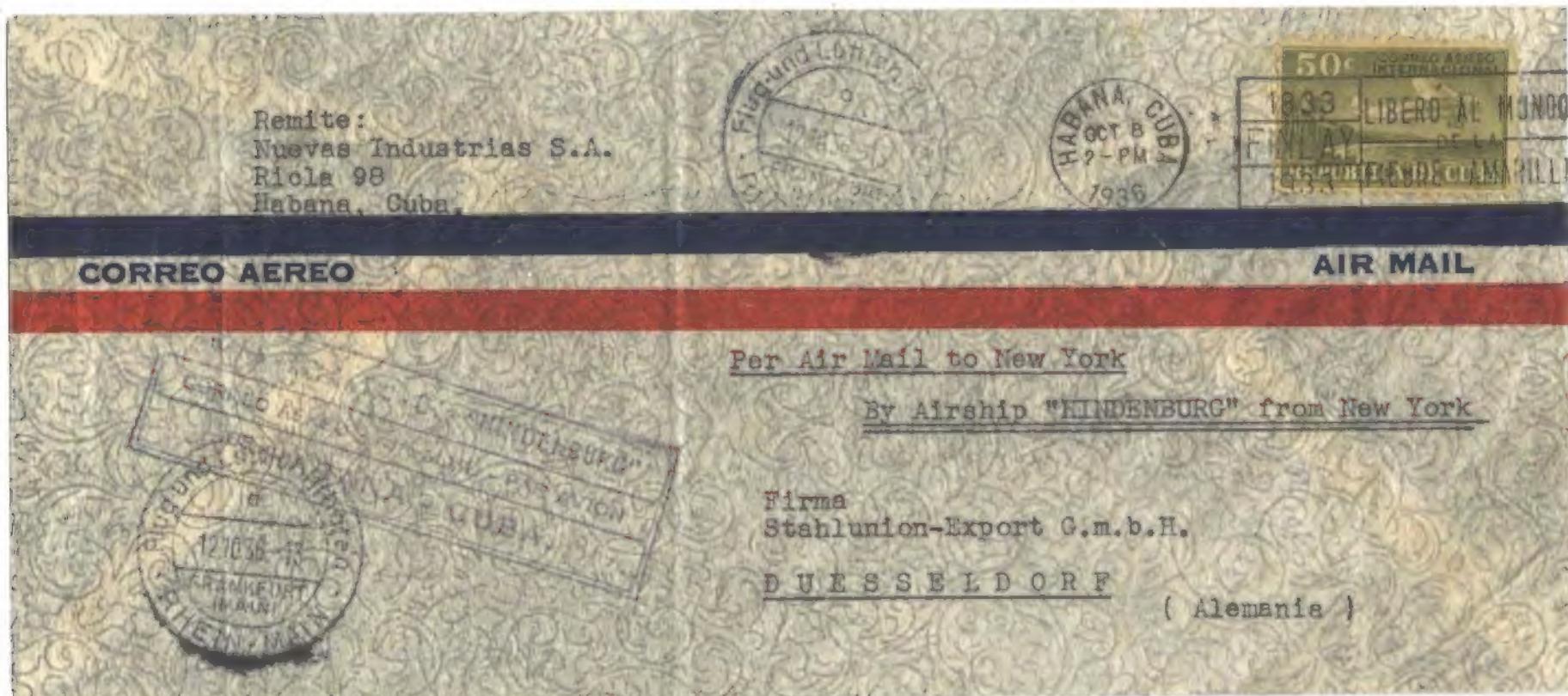
Meter Letter to Mexico City - Postage RM 1.05 = .50 zeppelin, .10 airmail in US, .20 airmail to Mexico, .25 surface.



Netherlands - Business Letter to Canada - Same postage as mail to U.S. - .50 gulden zeppelin, 12½ surface.



Venezuela - Business Letter from Caracas to Berlin - Postage 3.00 zeppelin, .25 surface.



Cuba - Business Letter from an Industrial Firm in Havana - Postage 50¢ = 10¢ airmail to US, 40¢ zeppelin to Europe.